

HOUSE BILL 5730 – Hours of Service Legislation

HB 5730 introduced by Representative Joel Johnson is legislation to amend the Motor Carrier Safety Act to change the number of hours of operation that truck drivers engaged in seasonal construction work may work in consecutive days.

Currently under the law, a driver operating entirely in intrastate commerce within the seasonal construction industry may not operate a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) after having been on duty 70 hours in seven consecutive days or 80 hours in eight consecutive days. In addition, employees are prohibited from operating a CMV more than 12 hours or be on duty for more than 16 hours in any given day. HB 5730 would eliminate these restrictions and allow employees engaged in seasonal construction work operating a CMV entirely in intrastate commerce to be exempt from these restrictions.

Over the past several years, state and federal road agencies have implemented mobility policies for the safety and convenience of the motoring public. These mobility policies restrict the days and time in which construction operations on highways can occur. Because of these policies, as well as disincentives for completing projects past deadlines, often times contractors are forced into working extended hours in order to complete these time sensitive projects in a timely manner.

The federal hours of service regulations were originally established for long-haul truck drivers operating CMVs in multiple states. Employees in the seasonal construction industry however, perform different tasks during their work day, keeping them alert throughout their shift.

Many employees who are operating CMVs are highly skilled and demand incomes reflecting their training and experience. Often times, these employees have the desire to work longer hours during the short window that our state's climate permits construction to occur in order to provide a decent living for their families.

MITA and our members urge you to vote "YES" on HB 5730.

If you have any questions regarding HB 5730, please contact Lance Binoniemi, MITA's Vice President of Government Affairs at 517-347-8336 or via email at lancebinoniemi@mi-ita.com.